

2010

Prepared by Tanana
Chiefs Conference
Community Planning
Program



[HUSLIA COMMUNITY PLAN]

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Figure 1: This moose skin wall hanging was done by Reba DeWilde in honor of her grandmother.

Vision Statement

The main goal of our community is to ensure the survival of our community and the preservation of our traditional way of life. We envision our community as a desirable place to live where future members will want to come back to after schooling to work and raise families. To reach this goal we need to create a self sustaining economy and address social, cultural, and infrastructure issues in our community.

Executive Summary

Information included in the Community Overview, Infrastructure, and Economy sections based on their supporting plans including the *1999 Community Development Plan*, *Huslia Sanitation Master Plan*, and the *Huslia Alternative Energy Plan*. Other primary sources include the Community Online Database operated by the State of Alaska. Detailed information regarding community infrastructure and economic activity was obtained through interviews with community members, the Tribal Council, and City clerk. Community Maps included were produced and provided by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

The goals, objectives, and action plan were compiled during an open community planning meeting held on July 22. Some of the goals and objectives included in the 2010 Community Plan remained the same as the goals and objectives determined during the *1999 Community Development Plan* based on their continued importance and relevance to Huslia's community members today. A full list of attendees to the July 22, 2010 community planning meeting are included in Appendix A. January 8, 2011 a Tribal Council meeting was held where the plan was reviewed and adopted by Council members. The list of Council members in attendance are included in Appendix A and the Resolution is included in Appendix C.

Community Overview

History

The Koyukon Athabascans of Huslia traditionally lived between the south fork of the Koyukuk River and the Kateel River and migrated throughout the year moving their camps with the wild fish and game. In the summer many families would float on a raft to the Yukon River to fish for salmon. The Koyukon often traded with the Kobuk River Eskimos. By 1843, Russian explorers had made contact with Athabascans approximately 50 miles downriver from the current site. The Western Union Telegraph Company explored the river around 1867, and missionary activity increased after 1870. Cutoff Trading Post (also called Old Town) was established in the 1920s about 4 miles overland or 16 river miles from modern Huslia. In 1949, the community moved to the present site, because Cutoff flooded frequently, and the ground was swampy. Huslia (originally spelled Huslee) was named after a local stream. Huslia had been used as a burial site since 1886 but, by the time of the move most of the old cemetery had been destroyed by erosion. In 1950, the first school was established followed by a post office, airport, and road construction in 1952. At this time families began to live year-round at Huslia. In 1960, a health clinic was constructed, and in 1963, 29 individual hand-pumped water wells were installed. The city government was incorporated in 1969. Running water and indoor plumbing arrived in 1974.¹

Location, Geography, & Climate

Huslia is located on the north bank of the Koyukuk River, about 170 river miles northwest of Galena and 290 air miles west of Fairbanks. It is surrounded by the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. It lies at approximately 65.698610 North Latitude and -156.399720 West Longitude. (Sec. 33, T004N, R012E, Kateel River Meridian.) Huslia lies within the Koyukuk River flood plain and is surrounded wetlands that are comprised of marshes, small lakes, meandering streams, and wooded areas. Soils in and around Huslia consist primarily of floodplain deposits of fine to medium-grained sand and micaceous silt and clay.² Huslia is located in the Nulato Recording District. The area encompasses 16.4 sq. miles of land and 0.7 sq. miles of water. The area has a cold, continental climate with extreme temperature differences. The average daily maximum temperature is 72 °F during July; the average minimum is



Figure 2: Lichens and dwarf trees are common around Huslia.

¹ (Alaska Department of Commerce)

² (Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002)

below 0 °F during January. Record temperatures have been recorded from -65 to above 90 °F. The annual precipitation averages 13 inches, with 70 inches of snowfall. The Koyukuk River is ice-free from May through September.

Land Status & Hazards

In 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed by Congress which was an effort to address land ownership, sub-surface, and surface rights. Under ANCSA traditional Native uses of lands were recognized and amendments to land ownership were made through reconveyance to regional and sub-regional corporations established for that purpose. ANCSA 14(c) establishes that land may be transferred to individuals, non-profits, or to the community for facilities that are needed. Land in and around Huslia was surveyed in 1983, the majority of land being retained by K'oyitlots'ina Limited and subsurface rights being retained by Doyon Limited.³ Land holders in Huslia include Doyon Limited, K'oyitlots'ina Limited, Huslia City, the State of Alaska, and private land owners. The city of Huslia lies on approximately 40 acres of land which consists of residential, commercial, and public use facilities.

The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses 3.5 million acres, is located on the



Figure 3: Koyukuk River located in front of Huslia.

Koyukuk flood plain. It is adjacent to the 750,000 acre Innoko Wildlife Refuge, together they make the Koyukuk/ Innoko Wildlife Refuge Complex. This vast area consists of wooded lowlands and rich wetlands consisting of an extensive network of rivers, lakes, and marshes. The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge retained its status in 1990 to protect the nesting areas of migratory birds, wildlife habitat, and fish hatcheries. The refuge is home to one of the most productive moose habitats in Alaska and home to the winter grounds of 450,000 strong Western Arctic caribou herd. The fish and wildlife of the Koyukuk flood plain remains an essential subsistence and cultural resource to the Native village of Huslia who have relied on the abundance of this region for generations.⁴

Flooding & Erosion

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Floodplain Management Service, has indicated that Huslia is at low risk of flooding. There are minor flooding events,

³ (Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002)

⁴ (Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge)

particularly during spring break up, however the town site of Huslia is located high enough from the Koyukuk River to not pose serious threats to the village. Erosion poses a considerable threat to Huslia, particularly structures located in “Old Huslia”. Several homes and structures have been relocated as a result of erosion. There has been some unsuccessful attempts to slow erosion in Huslia, but nothing in recent years.⁵

Population

The population according to the 2000 census was 293. Of the 293 residents, 274 were Alaskan Native and 13 were Caucasian. Huslia’s population was 95% Alaska Native. The population of male was 154 and the female population was 139. The average age was 24.4 with 153 over the age of 21. Current population and demographics of Huslia will be available December of 2010.

Governance & Public Administration

The Tribal Council was established in 1972 as a Traditional Tribal Council consisting of a seven member council. The Council includes the first chief, second chief, treasurer/ secretary, and four additional council members. The Council members serve either two or three year terms. Elections are held when there are open seats on the council. Council members serve staggered terms in order ensure that all changes are made smoothly. In addition to the council members there are a number of staff part of the Tribal Government who are responsible for ensuring programs are properly run. Some of the Tribal staff and programs in Tribal Government include the Tribal Administrator, Tribal Family and Youth Specialist (TFYS), community health aides, the Tribal Work Development Specialists (TWDS), the Elders’ Nutrition Program, and an



Figure 4: The village baseball field is located in front of the Tribal Hall (pictured in front) and the City Hall (pictured in the back left corner.)

AmeriCorps position. The Huslia Tribal Council is responsible for administering a variety of programs and services. All expenditures are accounted for with receipts. Financial transactions are entered promptly to ensure the budget is kept up to date and accurate. Financial reports are compiled in monthly and quarterly reports. Audits are done independently. The fiscal management system operates in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Huslia has a fully operational Tribal Court. The court is in session on a case by case basis. Judges preside on a voluntary basis and

⁵ (Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002)

are not necessarily members of the Tribal Council. This allows for greater community involvement and participation in Tribal justice.

Huslia was incorporated as a second class city in 1969 and the Tribal Government was established in 1977. The City of Huslia consists of a Mayor and a 7 member board. All City Council members are elected by the community when positions become vacant. There is one full time staff and one part time staff member. The city is responsible for operating the water and sewer facility in Huslia although the tribe owns the water facility. The city office provides an office space for the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) in addition to containing a small prison cell. The city also operates a search and rescue team and a volunteer fire department. Today both the City and Tribe of Huslia work very closely together in building their community.⁶

Other Entities

Their non-profit organization is Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) which provides social and health assistance. Over 40 federally recognized tribes are a part of TCC. Huslia is a part of Doyon Limited which is the regional corporation which owns nearly 10 million acres and encompasses 34 villages in the interior of Alaska. Doyon Limited is a profit corporation that espouses to protect the traditional uses of shareholders while promoting responsible development of natural resources and local economies. K'oyitl'ots'ina Limited, "the villages along the Koyukuk River", which includes Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, and Huslia is the sub-regional corporation.

⁶ (Huslia Tribal Council, 1999)

Infrastructure

Housing

According to the 2000 census there are 111 houses in Huslia and 88 are occupied, with 23 unoccupied houses. Of those houses that are occupied 20 are rented and the average rent a month is \$ 675. The average household is 3.33 people the average family household is 3.83. The total number of family households is 64 houses with 24 non family households. The median value of the houses is 78,800. Thirty three percent of the homes in Huslia now have running water. The majority of homes are constructed of logs and are heated with fuel oil. In recent years Huslia has experience growth in their community both through Huslia Tribal members moving home and the presence of many growing families. Due to this growth Huslia is currently experiencing a housing shortage that has resulted in multiple families living in the same home. There are not enough livable homes in Huslia to house the current population.

Public Utilities

Water & Sewer

Piped water and sewer has existed in Huslia since 1974. The piped water and sewer project completed in 1974 connected a total of 27 homes to the water distribution system. In following years more houses were added to the distribution system. In 2002 the *Huslia Sanitation Master Plan* was completed. Studies completed as part of the Sanitation Plan revealed high rust contents in Huslia's main water source. Community surveys conducted as part of the Sanitation Plan concluded that replacement of the water treatment plant was the community's highest priority.⁷ Major renovations of the original water system began in 2004 and were completed in 2007. A new water treatment plan was constructed, the water mains were replaced, and a new washeteria was constructed. Currently the city operates the water and sewer plant but the Tribe owns it. Since the completion of the water and sewer overhaul, small projects have continued including connecting homes to the main water system. Most recently the main water lines in Old Huslia were all replaced in the summer of 2010.⁸



Figure 5: Replacement of main water lines occurred in summer of 2010 in "Old Town" Huslia.

Landfill

The current landfill was constructed in 2006 and is located 1 mile out of Huslia. It was necessary to relocate the old landfill due to its close proximity to newly constructed airport. The current landfill is a Class III landfill that is operated by the City of Huslia. Refuse collection services are

⁷ (Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002)

⁸ (Burgett, 2010)

no longer provided by the village council. Spring cleaning occurs once a year of the landfill for upkeep and maintenance of the site.⁹

Electricity

Electricity in Huslia is owned and operated by Alaska Village Electrical Company (AVEC). The City of Huslia is responsible for paying two full time employees of AVEC. The AVEC employees alternate two weeks on and two weeks off in running the power facility. Power is its electricity through two diesel generators. The cost of a kilowatt of electricity is about 15.42 cents per k/Wh.

Communication

ACS of the Northland is the In-State telephone service provider and AT&T Alascom is the long-distance provider. Internet services are available through GCI. Some individuals have access to the internet, both Tribe and City governments, the school, and the clinic. Cable TV is offered through ARCS and the radio station available in Huslia is KIYU-AM.

Bulk Fuel

The city, school and AVEC all possess bulk fuel storage. AVEC has tanks that store 67,174 gallons of fuel, Yukon-Koyukuk Schools can store 39,874, and the City of Huslia/Huslia Gas & Oil can store 60,559 gallons of gas. Huslia has a post office with a full time post master open Monday thru Friday.

Public Facilities

Health Clinic

The new health clinic in Huslia was completed in October of 2006 and was named in honor of Rose Ambrose who served as a health aide for many years. The clinic has three full time health aides who treat a wide variety of ailments. The health clinic sees an average of 90 patients per month. All health aides frequently consult with physicians in Fairbanks and refer any delicate cases to Chief Andrew Isaac in Fairbanks. The clinic has an ambulance and an emergency staff that consists of the health aides and volunteers. For serious emergencies patients are medivaced to Fairbanks. The clinic is operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Community Hall

Huslia as a community hall located in the middle of town next to the baseball field. Most of the local events take



Figure 6: Entrance to the Huslia Community Hall.

⁹ (Alaska Department of Commerce)

place at the hall such as bingo, fundraisers, potlatches and other community functions. The community hall is in poor conditions and needs to be remodeled or build a new hall. In 2008 the City of Huslia was awarded a \$40,000 legislative grant for planning the construction of a new multi-use building. To complete a comprehensive planning document including blueprints, an amount twice that much will be necessary due to the high cost of travel to and from the village of Huslia. Constructing a new multi-use building that could house a new community hall and offices for tribal government is a high priority for the Huslia community members.

Elder's Center

An Elder's Nutrition Program is run by the tribal government. There is no longer a full time cook hired for the Elder's Nutrition Program so the Tribe hires cooks on a one to two week basis which provides temporary work for many different Tribal members. The Elder's Nutrition Facility is located in the back of the Tribal Government building. The Elder Nutrition Program cooks primarily traditional food gathered through subsistence activities and serves meals such as moose stew, salmon, and fry bread. Elders talk about the need for an Elders Assisted Living Center in Huslia that would allow them to stay in their community instead of going to a place like Fairbanks that is away from family and their home.

Jimmy Huntington School

The Jimmy Huntington School teaches students kindergarten through 12th grade. There were roughly 90 students attending school in 2009-2010 with a total of 6 graduates. There are 4 elementary teachers and 4 junior high and high school teachers. The Jimmy Huntington School also employs a principal and school councilor. Renovations are currently being made to the existing school facility. Although these renovations and upgrades are much needed, community members are concerned that the existing facility does not provide sufficient space for the growing number of students. Huslia is known for their basketball team which has gone to the State Conference for the past two years.



Figure 7: Repairs and upgrades underway of the Jimmy Huntington School.

Stores

There are three locally owned stores in Huslia. R&M Mercantile is owned by Mabel and Nakon' Vent which sells groceries, cleaning products, and other miscellaneous items such as shoes, pots & pans, beads, and local artwork. Bifelt Enterprise is owned by Fred and Audrey Bifelt and sells groceries and rents movies. RJ's Store is owned by Josslin Olin which primarily sells hardware and smaller convenience items.

Transportation

Huslia has a total of 23 miles of roads that are constructed primarily of sand and gravel. The Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining the roads. There are several unrecorded roads which are in need of improvement and upgrades to ensure safe travel. Modes of transportation vary throughout the year. In the winter months the roads are infrequently plowed making it difficult to utilize vehicles. Snow machines are the most common mode of transportation in the winter both within the village and to surrounding areas. Huslia is also known as an avid dog mushing community. Huslia utilizes a network of winter trails and frozen rivers to travel between neighboring villages. Trail marking and the construction of emergency shelters along these winter byways remains a high priority for residents of Huslia and surrounding villages. Extreme winter temperatures and limited daylight makes winter travel dangerous often contributing to life threatening circumstances. In the summer months residents use ATVs and vehicles in town. In the summer travel by boat is the most common mode of transportation to surrounding areas. Transportation priorities and current conditions are outlined in Huslia's Long Range Transportation Plan which is currently being updated to reflect the changing transportation needs of Huslia.



Figure 8: Snow-machines in the winter and four-wheelers in the summer are standard modes of transportation in Huslia.

Huslia is not connected to any highways making travel to and from Huslia possible only through air travel. The two air carriers that regularly travel to Huslia are Warbelow Air Ventures and Era Airlines. In addition to these two carriers Arctic Circle Air brings freight to Huslia. Huslia has a 4,000' by 75' air strip surfaces with gravel which is owned and maintained by the State of Alaska.

Construction of Huslia's current airport was completed in 2003. The airstrip was resurfaced in 2010.

Alternative Energy Plan

Cost of fuel in Huslia in 2007 was \$6.25 per gallon, the cost of heating oil \$7.00 per gallon, and \$0.32 per Kw/H for electricity.¹⁰ The high cost of energy remains a significant burden for residents in Huslia and investigating alternative energy options remains a high priority. Huslia

¹⁰ (Interior Regional Housing Authority, 2008)

created a Draft Long Range Alternative Energy Plan (LREP) in 2008. The plan outlines the current energy usage and sources in addition to highlighting alternative energy priorities for the community of Huslia. Through a series of community meetings Huslia developed a number of energy goals ranging from conducting studies on appropriate alternative energy options for Huslia, implementing alternative energy methods on new construction and older infrastructure existing in Huslia, and implementing strategies to reduce energy consumption such as weatherizing existing homes. The LREP outlines potential alternative energy sources that may be utilized including solar, geothermal, wind, hydropower, and wood energy systems. Feasibility studies need to be conducted in all of these areas to determine what would be the best sources of alternative energy for Huslia.¹¹

¹¹ (Huntington, 2008)

Economy

Much of the economic activity in Huslia originates through federal, state, and grant funded projects and positions. Like many interior rural Alaskan villages Huslia is arduously making the transition from a subsistence based economy to a cash based economy. Although Huslia faces many obstacles one of the primary goals set forth in Huslia's Community Development Plan in 1999 included reducing Huslia's reliance on government monies through encouraging local business and industry. Surveys done during the creation of the Comprehensive Community Development Plan indicated that upwards of 90% of revenue in Huslia was the direct result of government transfer. With such a high reliance on transfer money Huslia is subject to yearly funding decisions that do not take into consideration the needs of the community. Without a continuous effort to capture revenue generated through capital projects in Huslia before it is spent outside of the community, Huslia's economy will never be sustainable and sovereignty will not be actualized. Promoting sustainable economic development and creating supportive resources for new business development remains a high priority among community members today.¹²

Industry & Capital Projects

Currently the Native village of Huslia does not support any major industry. Much of the economic activity is generated through capital improvements of community infrastructure. In recent years Huslia has completed several significant capital improvements projects including the construction of a new airstrip, health clinic, washeteria, water treatment plant, and landfill. These projects create some temporary employment opportunities for Huslia's residents, however contractors from outside do not always prefer local hire and bring in their own workers.



Figure 9: The locally owned RJ's Store selling hardware supplies.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Huslia, Tribal Government, school, health clinic, and local stores provide the only year round employment in Huslia. The City of Huslia has one full time staff member and one part time staff. The city is also responsible for providing wages to the VPSO, employees of the water treatment plant, and AVEC. The Tribal Government employs a full time Tribal Administrator, Office Assistant,

¹² (Huslia Tribal Council, 1999)

Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, AmeriCorps worker, and temporary Elder Nutrition cooks. The health clinic employs three full time health aids. The school employs 8 full time teachers, a principal, and a student councilor. There are three locally owned stores in Huslia that provide several year-round employment opportunities.

During summer months there are often seasonal jobs available including firefighting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and construction jobs in and outside of the village. Many of Huslia's residents rely on seasonal employment as their primary source of income for the entire year. Some local residents run dog teams. Although dog mushing is not considered a lucrative business, it does provide opportunities for generating some income through local and international competitions. Huslia is known for its dog mushing traditions and is home to the renowned dog musher George Attla who won 10 Fur Rendezvous World Championship sprint titles and 8 North American Open sprint championships.¹³

Subsistence

Although Huslia has shifted to a cash based economy, subsistence activities remain a central component of the local economy. With very few year round employment opportunities in Huslia, residents depend on their subsistence activities. Moose, caribou, salmon, whitefish bear, small game, waterfowl, berries, and gardening activities are important food supplements to residents. Many people of Huslia rely on what they can hunt and gather off the land to make it through the winter.

Table of subsistence harvests in 2002

Resource	Percent Using	Percent Attempting to Harvest	Percent Harvesting	Percent Giving Away	Percent Receiving	Reported Harvest
All Resources	95.8	70.8	58.3	37.5	86.1	161
All Resources	78.8	57.6	55.3	48.2	55.3	32433.596
Fish	78.8	57.6	55.3	48.2	55.3	32433.596
Non-Salmon Fish	78.8	57.6	55.3	48.2	55.3	32433.596
Blackfish	7.1	5.9	4.7	2.4	3.5	121.79893
Burbot	38.8	14.1	12.9	11.8	29.4	233.60786
Char	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	8.987143
Lake Trout	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	8.987143
Grayling	40	22.4	21.2	12.9	20	264.5518
Pike	55.3	42.4	40	31.8	23.5	1768.0275
Sheefish	60	30.6	29.4	25.9	37.6	869.535
Sucker	11.8	10.6	10.6	5.9	2.4	198.66214
Whitefish	72.9	49.4	49.4	38.8	36.5	6452.1416

¹³ (George Attla, 2007)

Broad Whitefish	28.2	17.6	17.6	16.5	12.9	2342.0571
Cisco	23.5	14.1	14.1	11.8	11.8	626.94
Bering Cisco	22.4	12.9	12.9	10.6	11.8	497.16644
Least Cisco	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	129.78322
Humpback Whitefish	67.1	47.1	47.1	36.5	31.8	3483.135
Black Bear	45.8	31.9	11.1	9.7	37.5	19
Brown Bear	4.2	6.9	1.4	1.4	2.8	1
Caribou	73.6	41.7	34.7	19.4	50	78
Moose	93.1	68.1	52.8	29.2	68.1	63

Figure 10: Information provided by the Department of Fish & Game, Community Subsistence Information System. ¹⁴

Employment & Income Levels

According to information gathered in the 2000 U.S. Census there was a total of 188 persons a part of the potential workforce. Out of 188, 94 were employed. The unemployment rate was 18.3% which did not include a total of 73 adults not actively looking for work. The total percentage of adults over the age of 16 not working was 50% of the population. The average per capita income was \$10,983, the median household income was \$27,000 and the median family household income was \$31,000. An estimated 85 persons were in poverty or 28.1 % of the total population.¹⁵

Barriers to Economic Development

Huslia's remote location and high cost of energy pose some of the most significant challenges for economic development. Due to these two factors providing goods and services at an affordable price is challenging and difficult. Current and prospective business owners have to contend with these factors with creative and innovative ideas.

Local Assets

One of Huslia's strongest assets are its traditions and the strength of the community. Huslia's residents take pride in their culture and where they come from. Many of Huslia's Elders still remain in the village and contribute the overall strength and identity of the community.

Potential for Growth

The area for the greatest potential for economic growth in Huslia is its cottage industries. There is a potential market for several small scale services such as small engine repair, monitor and stove repair, hair salon, and a coffee shop/ internet café. Many of Huslia's residents travel regularly to the regional hub of Fairbanks for basic supplies and services. Not only would the businesses aforementioned supply steady income for business owners, it would potentially allow

¹⁴ (Alaska Division of Fish & Game, 2010)

¹⁵ (Alaska Department of Commerce)

the village to capture and circulate revenue that is generated through state and federal jobs and capital projects.

Another area for potential growth is tourism. Huslia has had some tourism activities in the past through Athabasca Cultural Journey. Although this business is no longer running it does provide a potential model for Huslia to build off of. Some local residents and leadership have voiced an interest in reviving cultural tourism in Huslia and have discussed creating an informal arrangement with Warbelows Air Ventures which operates two flights in and out of Huslia a day. Huslia is known for its local arts and crafts, historical sites, dog mushing traditions, and beautiful scenery. All of these would provide an excellent basis for a small scale tourism industry. By promoting tourism within the village there would be a potential market for arts and crafts produced by local residents, it could also potentially provide an income for guides and those interested in running small B&Bs.

Community Goals Progress Report

Reviewing the Comprehensive Community Plan completed in 1999 was an important component of updating and creating Huslia's 2010 Community Plan. Reviewing the goals and objectives established in the 1999 allowed community members to acknowledge accomplishments and improvements that have been made in addition to identifying community priorities that have not changed. Most notably all of the objectives under the overall goal of improving community infrastructures were accomplished over the past 10 years. Objective 1 was to relocate the waste disposal area, which was completed in 2006. Objective 2 was to relocate the airport, which was completed in 2003. Objective 3 was to create a new water treatment plant and laundry-mat facility, which was also completed in 2006. Other community priorities regarding improving community infrastructure included the construction of a new health clinic which was completed in 2006, and upgrades to the school which were underway during the completion of this community plan. Over all the village of Huslia has made significant gains towards priorities that were identified in 1999 demonstrating their commitment to working hard to see improvements in their community.



Figure 11: The new washeteria completed in 2006.

Some goals and objectives stayed the same including the objectives 1,2, &3 under the overall goal of Quality of Life including safeguarding subsistence lifestyle through promoting an annual culture camp, teaching the Native language, and documenting histories, craft making, traditional knowledge, wisdom, and values of the elders. Huslia Tribal members identified these objectives as ongoing and important to the overall health and strength of their community. Two additional objectives identified during the community planning process in 1999 remained the same including helping perspective business owners start small business under the goal of economic development, and encouraging frequent community gatherings and activities under social wellness.

Table of 2010 Goals & Objectives

<p>Create a self sustaining economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote tourism with the Native Village of Huslia that will encourage employment opportunities in Huslia that utilize traditional values and principles. • Help perspective business owners start small businesses. • Start a business center that contains a computer lab and copy center that will help residents apply for jobs. • Improve and create access to employment skills training such as; resume building, First Aid & CPR Certification, QuickBooks, construction certification. • Start a Daycare in Huslia that will be a safe and healthy facility for children of working parents.
<p>Create a comprehensive community support system that promotes wellness, preserves our unique traditional cultural history, and decreases social risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard subsistence lifestyle through ensuring the Huslia Culture Camp remains and annual event. • Teach the Native language to community members particularly youth. • Document the histories, traditional knowledge, wisdom, and value of our elders and craft makers.
<p>Create a strong support system for youth and families to improve community cohesiveness and to decrease community problems, such as alcohol and drug abuse, domestic and child abuse, and suicide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number and frequency of community gatherings. • Begin a wellness program based on cultural traditions, values and principal. • Start a youth peer group. • Promote holistic healing among Huslia community members by encouraging and utilizing Traditional Healing practices to promote the physical and mental health. • Create an Elders Assisted Living Center.
<p>The educational facilities and opportunities in Huslia meet the demands of the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote health education that will teach students about teen pregnancy, safe sex, abstinence, STDs, and the effects of drugs & alcohol.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide life skills training for both young adults and young parents. • Re-integrate Athabaskan Cultural Education (Indian Ed) in the school again.
Improve community infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing community in Huslia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure adequate funding for the design and construction of a multi-use building. • Make all necessary improvements to ensure that youth facility is fully functional and meets all necessary requirements. • Ensure that there is adequate housing available for all of Huslia's residents particularly for young families. • Ensure that Huslia's roads are properly maintained and expand to meet the needs of the community.

Goals, Objectives, & Action Plan

Economy

Goal: Create a self sustaining economy.

Objective 1: Promote tourism with the Native Village of Huslia that will encourage employment opportunities in Huslia that utilize traditional values and principles.

Action

- Hold a community meeting to discuss community participation.
- Research past businesses such as Athabasca tours and Mingooga Corporation to build off of.
- Contact Warbelow's Air Ventures for possible informal partnership.
- Develop a business plan.
- Create a central location for selling local arts & crafts.
- Start or improve Bed & Breakfast services
- Establish a web page, which would advertise and inform perspective visitors about Huslia. Emphasis Huslia's dog mushing traditions and culture.
- Compile oral histories and utilize local storytellers.
- Encourage community involvement particularly among elders and youth.
- Create a village tour.
- Have monthly committee meetings concerning the promotion in Huslia.
- Inform community members of tourism activities in Huslia and ensure that all conflicts and/ or disagreements regarding activities are properly mitigated.

Objective 2: Help perspective business owners start small businesses.

Action

- Ensure that the Tribal Workforce Development Specialist is available to help by giving advice and connecting perspective business owners with specific people, programs, and/ or loans.
- Have small business material available for



Figure 12: Drafting objectives during the community planning meeting during July of 2010.

people to brows at their leisure.

- Write grants that would support professional counselors from the minority business development center at TCC to come to Huslia and help individuals by giving professional advice, helping them write business plans, and if necessary, helping those who are ready fill out for a business loan.
- Offer business development workshops to help people know the steps to start their own business.
- Encourage local businesses such as small engine repairs, chimney sweeping, carpentry & woodworking, etc that would encourage residents to capitalize on their skills and know-how.

Objective 3: Start a business center that contains a computer lab and copy center that will help residents apply for jobs.

Action

- Research a facility for the business center.
- Research feasibility of businesses center and strategies of making the center self sustaining such as including a coffee shop and snack bar.
- Enquire among community members regarding what components would be most helpful as part of the business center
- Write a business plan

Objective 4: Improve and create access to employment skills training such as; resume building, First Aid & CPR Certification, QuickBooks, construction certification.

Action

- Explore local and other resources such as CSC, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Yukon-Koyukuk School District, Doyon Lmt., UAF Interior Aleutians Campus, Small Business Development Center, and School Counselors or business development counselors.
- Utilize instructors from within the village or neighboring villages that would be able to offer trainings prior to seeking individuals outside of the village such as Tribal leaders, members, elders, Head Start staff, Community School Committee members, local business owners, missionaries.
- Offer training and renewal of following certifications. HazMat, MSHA, OSHA, & CDL

- Promote access and encourage utilization of UAF Distance Education or other appropriate entities via telephone and internet.
- Offer business development trainings such as home business development.

Objective 5: Start a Daycare in Huslia that will be a safe and healthy facility for children of working parents.

Action

- Identify the number of parents that would be willing to support such a facility and would be able to afford daycare services.
- Write a business plan for the daycare business.
- Ensure that all proper procedures and preparations are made to ensure the daycare center is properly ran and managed establishing procedures for financial management, training and necessary certification for employees working with children, insurance for facility, etc.
- Identify an appropriate building for the daycare center.

Quality of Life

Goal: Create a comprehensive community support system that promotes wellness, preserves our unique traditional cultural history, and decreases social risks.

Objective 1: Safeguard subsistence lifestyle through ensuring the Huslia Culture Camp remains and annual event.

Objective 2: Teach the Native language to community members particularly youth.

Action

- Host a community meeting to brainstorm language learning activities.
- Establish a Cultural Education Committee to guide activities and ensure efforts are continue.
- Ensure that the Cultural Education Committee coordinates with the school district lobbying for Native language to be taught in Huslia's school again.
- Explore possibilities in teaching the language to children in the Head Start program and the possible daycare center to promote a bi-lingual community.

Objective 3: Document the histories, traditional knowledge, wisdom, and value of our elders and craft makers.

Action

- Establish a Cultural Preservation office and personnel.
- Document the histories, traditional knowledge, wisdom and values of our elders and craft-makers.
- Devise and implement a system to properly protecting the collected information.
- Contacts UAF's Alaska Native Knowledge Network for technical support and informational resources and how to acquire and document traditional knowledge.
- Update family trees of community members and organize and community night to present to the community and educate the youth on the communities relations.



Figure 13: Locally made snow shoes using moose sinew and red dye made from animal fat and red rocks found only along the Koyukuk River.

Social Wellness

Goal: Create a strong support system for youth and families to improve community cohesiveness and to decrease community problems, such as alcohol and drug abuse, domestic and child abuse, and suicide.

Objective 1: Increase the number and frequency of community gatherings.

Action

- Establish a social wellness committee.
- Host monthly meetings to discuss perspective activities.
- Host regular community and culture nights, such as sewing night and music night, that would engage Huslia's residence and help foster a greater sense of community and support.
- Possible community nights could include cultural night, sewing night, caribou tufting, native singing and dancing, card night, musical instrument teaching, and WEIO games.

Objective 2: Begin a wellness program based on cultural traditions, values and principal.

Action

- Host a wellness workshops focused on community wellness; ensure that the community is involved by making an open invitation for community members to be a part of the planning process.
- Research possible presenters or facilitators that would focus on different elements of health and wellness such as; New Directions, Traditional Healing and Aesthetics upper body massages, etc.
- Form a committee that would coordinate workshops and community wellness activities.
- Use available resources in developing a wellness program and workshop such as the booklet from Bristol Bay family resource partnership Village Wellness Team Work Book.
- Set up Alcohol, Drug, and Suicide prevention programs.



Figure 14: Every year Huslia hosts boat races on the Koyukuk River; an activity that brings the community together for fun and games.

Objective 3: Start a youth peer group.

Action

- Identify community members able to start a network that could respond to sensitive and urgent situations quickly and appropriately.
- Research the possibilities of hiring a counselor to help youth with alcohol, drug and suicide issues in Huslia.
- Start AA and NA meetings utilizing traditional Talking Circles.
- Encourage outdoor activities, team building, and trust activities to ensure that Huslia's youth have a sense of belonging, identity, and support group.

Objective 4: Promote holistic healing among Huslia community members by encouraging and utilizing Traditional Healing practices to promote the physical and mental health.

Action

- Study and research traditional medicinal plants and knowledge
- Compile information on traditional healing practices and make this information available to tribal members.

- Build a traditional sweat lodge.
- Consult with the elders regarding traditional ceremonies and prayers and they should be practiced.

Objective 5: Create an Elders Assisted Living Center.

Action

- Research and apply for appropriate funding to conduct a feasibility study, draft a business plan, and design a building for an assisted living center in Huslia.
- Contact Tanana Chief Conference regarding the utilization and coordination of health services for the Elder Assisted Living Center.
- Contact other Koyukuk River villages about their interest in creating an Elder's Center that would serve all interested Koyukuk River villages.
- Establish an inter-village committee that would lead efforts in constructing an Elder's Assisted Living Center.
- Identify an appropriate location for the center.
- Research and apply for possible funding option for constructing the center and acquiring necessary equipment and furniture
- Ensure that local residents of Huslia are given the opportunity to obtain the necessary certification and training they need to work as qualified staff in the Elder's Assisted Living Center.

Education: The educational facilities and opportunities in Huslia meet the demands of the community.

Objective 1: Promote health education that will teach students about teen pregnancy, safe sex, abstinence, STDs, and the effects of drugs & alcohol.

Action

- Use cultural knowledge to teach youth about coming of age practices.
- Have the Community School Committee (CSC) contact the Yukon-Koyukuk School District (YKSD) about offering health education in the school.
- Contact the Health Clinic about utilizing health staff in providing health education in the school.

Objective 2: Provide life skills training for both young adults and young parents.

Action

- Offer courses that teach life skills trainings that include trainings such as personal hygiene, hygiene in the home, cooking, time management, and financial wellness.
- Contact financial agencies about offering financial wellness workshops.

- Establish a “Parents as Teachers” program offered through University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Objective 3: Re-integrate Athabascan Cultural Education (Indian Ed) in the school again.

Action

- Contact the Yukon-Koyukuk School District about re-starting traditional education in Huslia’s school.
- Ensure that the program includes classes on traditional songs, arts, crafts, and language.
- Invite Elders and community members to teach in traditional knowledge classes.

Community Infrastructure

Goal: Improve community infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing community in Huslia.

Objective 1: Secure adequate funding for the design and construction of a multi-use building.

Action

- Set up committee to keep the project moving forward.
- Elect a committee leader to facilitate project and to find funding.
- Contact ANTHC, Denali Commission, Rasmussen Foundation, and other private agencies to match or fund the construction of multipurpose building.

Objective 2: Make all necessary improvements to ensure that youth facility is fully functional and meets all necessary requirements.

Action

- Install water and sewer to youth facility.
- Research funding options and work with youth to fundraise for new equipment for facility such as computers, pool table, TV, and games.
- research funding to pay supervisor

Objective 3: Ensure that there is adequate housing available for all of Huslia’s residents particularly for young families.

Action

- Identify the funding schedule and time line for building new homes in Huslia through the Interior Regional Housing Authority.
- Research additional funding possibilities to ensure that sufficient homes are built.

- Complete the construction of at least 20 new homes which is needed to meet the needs of the growing community in Huslia.

Objective 4: Ensure that Huslia's roads are properly maintained and expand to meet the needs of the community.

Action

- Ensure that the Long Range Transportation Plan is updated and reflects the transportation needs of the community.
- Research best method for dust control in Huslia and gather quotes for different methods.
- Acquire a community transportation vehicle that would be used to transport elders, children, and community members for community events.
- Promote safe travel between villages by completing regular trail marking, upgrade shelters between villages, acquire satellite phone for search and rescue, and designate a dispatcher for departures and arrivals.
- Upgrade the community boat dock.

Community Plan Review Process and Time line

Annual Review

Each year, the Huslia Village Council and Council staff will conduct an informal review of their progress in implementing this plan. The review will consist of a written report prepared by Council staff and a work session attended by both Council and Council staff. Ideally the plan review should occur about a month prior to when the Council normally approves its annual operating budget.

Council staff will prepare, from monthly reports, a report summarizing achievements of the previous year, as well as any plan actions that were delayed or not completed, and accompanying reasons. Additionally, Council staff will prepare a list itemizing current grants, upcoming grant proposals, and flagging any current programs that either are reaching the end of a grant period or are in danger of losing funding due to unforeseen budget cuts. These reports will be submitted to the Council at least one week prior to the work session.

During the work session, the Council and Council staff will review the previous year's progress, identify new threats and opportunities, and modify, as necessary, the next year's proposed activities as detailed by the community plan. This plan is intended to be used as a resource guide, and thus is flexible, dynamic and open to changes that will maximize Huslia's opportunities to achieve the vision that the community has developed.

Five-Year Review

Because of the constant changes that are made to the communities goals and objectives as projects are completed and new priorities are made, the 5 year review will be an ongoing project. The 5 year review will consist of the Council and Council staff will undertake a more comprehensive review of the community plan, and convene at least one open community meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to present to Huslia's residents with progress made, as well as obstacles encountered, during the previous five years, revisit the remaining goals, and develop, if necessary, additional ones to replace or augment current goals. Following the community meeting, Council staff and Council will prioritize these goals, develop objectives and actions, and produce a Five-Year Update of the plan. The 5-Year Community Plan and all supporting plans and documents are available at the Huslia Village Council office for review by residents, tribal members and the public¹⁶.

¹⁶ (TCC with Hughes Tribal & City Council, 2006)

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Appendix A: Meeting Attendees

July 2010 Community Planning Meeting Participants:

Sonia Vent- Community Member
Vina T. Bilow- Community Member
Tracy Gray- Americorps Member
Ruth March- Community Member
Cesa Sam- Tribal Family Youth Specialist
Lorraine Pavlick- Community Member
Colleen Weter- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
Sidney Henry- Community Member
Mabel Vent- Community Member
Norman Burgett- 1st Chief
Josephine Derendoff- Community Member
Jeanette Vent- Tribal Assistant
Ross Sam- Community Member
Andrea Dubenetic- Public Health Nurse

January 8, 2011 Tribal Council Meeting Attendees:

Norman Burgett- 1st Chief
Speedy Sam- 2nd Chief
Vincent Henry- Council Member
Sophia Joyce Sam- Council Member
Darrin Vent Sr.- Council Member
Jocelyn Olin –Council Member

Appendix B: Contacts

Huslia Traditional Council

P.O. Box 70

Huslia, AK 99746

Office Telephone: (907) 829-2294

Office Fax: (907) 829-2409

Huslia City Council

Office Telephone: (907) 829-2266

Office Fax: (907) 829-2224

Huslia Clinic

Office Telephones: (907) 829-2253/ 829- 2281/ 829-2283

Office Fax: (907) 829-2203

Jimmy Huntington School

Office Telephone: (907) 829-2270

Office Fax: (907) 829-2270

Tanana Chiefs Conference

122 First Avenue, Suite 600

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Telephone (907) 452-8251

Toll Free in Alaska: 1800-478-6822

Appendix C: Community Survey Questions

Community Overview

What important cultural activities does your village have?

Governance

How many members are on the tribal council?

How many years do council members serve?

How does the election process work?

What projects are run by the tribal council?

Is there a city?

How many members are on the city council?

How long are there terms?

What departments are ran by the city?

What committees does your city have?

Is there a VPSO

If not, where is the nearest trooper located?

Are there tribal courts?

Have you adopted a tribal constitution, and/or codes.

What is the village corporation?

Are there any sub-regional corporations?

Are there any for profit organizations?

Public Facilities and Utilities

Are there any community plans on how run or operate community utilities?

Who runs the water facility?

What percentage of homes have running water?

How is sewage collected and/or disposed of?

Who runs electricity?

What is the village source of electricity?

How many household use electricity?

Who provides telephone services?

Is internet available? If so where?

How does the community manage their solid waste?

Are there any plans to upgrade in the near future?

Is their bulk fuel storage in the community, how much does it hold?

Who has bulk storage fuel tanks in the community; how much do they hold?

Does the community have a local store?

What does it sell?

Does the community have a cooperative store, what does it sell?

Clinic

Is there a health aid, if so how many?

What does the health aid treat?

Who runs/ funds the health clinic?

Where are patients referred to when their symptoms can't treated at the clinic?

Education

How many students attended the school this past year?

How many students graduated?

Is there any threat of the school closing?

How many teachers are there?

Are there any additional education or training programs available in the community?

Who provides any additional training?

Are there any youth programs in your community?

Transportation

What is the primary mode of transportation?

How are supplies brought to village (barge, plain)?

Is there a Long Range Transportation Plan?

Capital Projects

What projects are currently going on in your community?

What subsistence activities are most common in your community?

Housing

When was the most recent housing structures completed?

Are there enough homes in your community to meet demands?

Are there any housing projects underway including renovation and construction of new homes?

HUSLIA TRIBAL COUNCIL

Resolution No.11-01

HUSLIA COMMUNITY PLAN

X
WHEREAS: This community plan is important to the future growth and development of Huslia.
And,

WHEREAS: this plan was created through a public process which captured the values and goals of our community; and,

WHEREAS: this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community; and,

WHEREAS: this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,

WHEREAS: we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue the values, goals, and vision express in this plan.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed by the following parties:


Tribal Government

Jan 8, 2011
Date

Municipal Government

Date